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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fifty-first session
Sessional working group on the working methods and
activities of transnational corporations

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Implementation of Sub-Commission resolution 1998/8:

(a) Methods of work of the sessional working group, including mechanisms to gather information on the effects of the working methods and activities of transnational corporations on the enjoyment of human rights; including the right to development;

(b) The compatibility of human rights instruments with the various international investment agreements, regional as well as international, including a possible multilateral agreement on investment;

(c) The scope of the obligation of States to regulate the activities of transnational corporations, including:

(i) Review of the main international principles and standards relating to transnational corporations and human rights;

(ii) Review of their implementation;

(d) Human rights, development and transnational corporations in the new international economic order:

(i) The risk of standard-lowering competition between States seeking to attract foreign direct investment (e.g. in the areas of labour, environment, progressive taxation);

(ii) The scope of voluntary codes of conduct for and by transnational corporations relating to social and environmental responsibility;

(iii) Review of new proposals for further elaboration of national and international standards and regulations, in the Human Development Report, 1999 and various proposals of non-governmental organizations;

(e) The role of the United Nations system in ensuring compatibility between human rights principles and the working methods and activities of transnational corporations.